

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 VO-03 INSE-00

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IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 OC-06 PRS-01

SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRD-01 MCT-01

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APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAIR YO US

SUBJECT: TWA SKYJACKING BY CROATIAN TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 225375 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SITREP AS OF 2100 SEPTEMBER 11
WASHINGTON TIME. (WE ASSUME EMBASSY ALSO RECEIVING NEWS
VIA WESTERN WIRESERVICES.)

2. TWA BOEING 727 HAS BEEN ON GROUND AT CHARLES DEGAULLE
AIRPORT IN PARIS SINCE APPROXIMATELY 1900 PARIS TIME
TODAY, FOLLOWING FLIGHT OVER LONDON AND PARIS AT WHICH
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TIME LEAFLETS WERE DROPPED FROM ACCOMPANYING BOEING 707

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SKYJACKERS' DEMANDS. FOLLOWING ARRIVAL, SKYJACKERS HAVE DEMANDED (1) THAT THEY BE ASSURED THAT THEIR MANIFESTO HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE FOUR SPECIFIED U.S. NEWSPAPERS AND THE PARIS HERALD TRIBUNE, AND (2) THAT THEY BE SHOWN ACTUAL COPIES OF THE NEWSPAPERS NO LATER THAN 0730 SEPTEMBER 13 PARIS TIME. EARLIER IN THE DAY, SKYJACKERS WERE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE INDICATED THAT IF THEY WERE SATISFIED THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET, THEY WERE PREPARED TO GIVE UP HOSTAGES AND GIVE THEMSELVES UP TO FACE WHATEVER CONSEQUENCES WERE DUE (WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO KEEP FROM THEM THE NEWS OF THE DEATH OF

THE NEW YORK POLICEMAN, BUT ARE UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THEY MAY HAVE LEARNED OF IT VIA COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTS.)

3. PASSENGERS RELEASED AT GANDER HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED AND POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE SIX SKYJACKERS AS ZVONKO BUSIC, A US RESIDENT ALIEN OR US CITIZEN IN LATE TWENTIES WITH A HISTORY OF ACTIVITY IN CROATIAN SEPARATIST ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES. PASSENGERS ALSO TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED ANOTHER SKYJACKER AS JULIANNE EDEN BUSIC NEE SCHULTZ (DPB: 9/20/48, EUGENE, OREGON), WHO IS THE WIFE OF ZVONKO BUSIC AND WHO IN LATE NOVEMBER 1970 RAN AFOUL OF YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES FOR DISTRIBUTING CROATIAN SEPARATIST LITERATURE IN ZAGREB. SHE WAS ARRESTED, JAILED FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH, CONVICTED AND THEN EXPELLED SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS 1970. SEE ZAGREB 1044 OF 12/24/70 AND PREVIOUS. (SEYMOUR, EUR/EE, IS CERTAIN THAT ZAGREB LOCAL NEDA ZEPIC WILL RECALL DETAILS SHOULD CONSULATE/EMBASSY NO LONGER HAVE RECORDS OF THE CASE.)

4. WE UNDERSTAND TIRES OF PLANE CONTAINING SKYJACKERS AND HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN FLATTENED AND THAT PLANE IS BLOCKED BY TRUCKS. AT APPROXIMATELY 1800 WASHINGTON TIME NOVEMBER 11 WE LEARNED THAT FRENCH PREFECT OF POLICE FOR CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT AREA INFORMED THE SKYJACKERS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES, STATING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN BEHALF OF GOF: TIRES OF THE PLANE ARE FLAT. SKYJACKERS
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WILL BE SHOT IF ANY OF THE HOSTAGES ARE INJURED. THE SKYJACKERS HAVE THREE CHOICES: (1) BE KILLED ON SPOT, (2) SURRENDER TO YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES, (3) SURRENDER TO UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES.

5. AMBASSADOR HECK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COORDINATOR FOR COMBATTING TERRORISM, ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY DURING AFTERNOON TO CONTACT SKYJACKERS BY TELEPHONE

AFTER SKYJACKERS REQUESTED TO SPEAK WITH PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER, OR AMBASSADOR RUSH. AMBASSADOR RUSH IS NOW AT CHARLES DE GAULLE AND IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT SKYJACKERS DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE FROM TOWER WITH APPROVAL OF GOF.

6. SKYJACKERS ARE REPORTEDLY RELEASING ONE OR TWO SICK PASSENGERS. KISSINGER

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